

Customer No.: 26308



Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Rahdert et al

Docket No.: 9542.18427-FOR

Serial No.: 10/676,729

Examiner: Stewart, Alvin J

Filed: 1 October 2003

Group Art Unit: 3738

Title: Devices, Systems, and Methods for Retaining a Native Heart Valve Leaflet

**AMENDMENT A**  
**AND**  
**RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed November 14, 2006, for which a shortened response period of one month was set.

An automatic five month extension of time, up to and including May 14, 2007, is respectfully requested. The requisite fee accompanies this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows:

05/15/2007 SSITHIB1 00000041 10676729

01 FC:2255

1080.00 0P